

**Testimony of Jan Marie Ayer**

**On January 29th, 2005 at 8:00 am I let my dog, Frasier out and waited for him to return due to icy weather. I went back to sleep and around 10:30, I was awakened by Frasier barking at my laundry room door. I heard a loud hissing noise and opened the door, thinking it was a frozen pipe. Overwhelmed by gas fumes, I slammed the door and ran to get a towel to put over my face. I grabbed Frasier and my purse and as I ran through my kitchen, I saw the gas spew from my water heater onto my coats hanging by the back door. The house was on fire and windows were blowing out. I ran out the front door to my car which was covered in ice, pulled the door open and put Frasier in the car. My neighbor saw the smoke coming out of my home and called 911. He ran over and put the fire out.**

**The fire report stated "cause of fire due to malfunction in hot water heater that resulted in an explosion." At around 3:00 pm that afternoon, I met with Mr. Frank Bouknight, Scana Claims Agent and Mr. Shaun Randall, Manager of Gas Operations, Aiken Division. Mr. Randall had been at my home since the explosion that morning. Mr. Bouknight asked me what happened and I explained the above events. I asked Mr. Randall what he thought had happened and he said, I believe the regulator was frozen due to an excess amount of water coming off the roof valley and your meter did not have a splash-guard. I asked Mr. Bouknight if he was aware of this ever happening before, and he replied, I believe there was a case thirty years ago. Mr. Bouknight told me SCE&G was not liable and my homeowner's insurance should take care of this, if not have them call him. When I received the investigative letter from Mr. Bouknight on February 1, I took it to the Fire Department and after reviewing it, they amended it to read... "regulator had frozen which ultimately caused the explosion."**

**After the initial shock of running for my life from my home, I had to know why SCE&G (a public utility company) was not responsible for the safety of equipment they own and attached to my home. I didn't install my gas meter and neither did State Farm.**

**So, I began my research. I went to the Langley Office to ask Mr. Randall some questions. I asked for a copy of the report of the installation of my meter and I asked him why did SCE&G install another meter in the same location below my roof valley in light of the fact that he earlier told me the meter should not have been there.**

*He said, quote "the newer design meter with the regulator and vent on the side has a less chance of back splash and the only way it could freeze again in the same location was if the water runs uphill." The service order and record Mr. Randall gave me says... my meter was installed in January of 1963, forty-two years ago.*

*I contacted Mr. Steve Smith, Building Inspector for the City of North Augusta to see what their role was in maintaining the safety of our gas meters. The city receives a franchise fee on my utility bill every month. Mr. Smith said, North Augusta code covers gas piping within the dwelling. His office suggested I contact the Public Service Commission to report the explosion and request an investigation. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, I spoke with Mr. Brent Sires, ORS and told him about the explosion... Mr. Sires said, quote: "meter readers are responsible for checking to see if meters are in safe locations... He added that all meters are guaranteed when frozen to lock-up." He immediately had Investigator Edwenna Lizbon contact me. My case was turned over to Mr. Vernon Gainey, Pipeline Safety Supervisor. He asked me if I had spoken with Mr. Stuckey Stoudemire, General Manager of Gas Operations, in Columbia about the explosion. Mr. Gainey contacted Mr. Stoudemire for me and I asked him what SCE&G was going to do about the safety of these meters. He replied, we are looking into splash-guards to retrofit the meters. I received a letter dated March 9<sup>th</sup>, from Mr. Stoudemire... stating the Pipeline Safety Staff, examined the information available and found no violations or non-compliances with safety regulations, the regulator malfunctioned due to an icing condition and we are sorry for the inconvenience this has caused you. Evidently, Mr. Stoudemire has never had to run from his home, fearing for his life, with gas leaking inside, windows blowing out, on fire, holding his dog under his arm into an ice storm! If he had, he would not have considered this an inconvenience. If I had only lost my power, that would have been inconvenient. Also, he said nothing in his letter about splash-guards for the meters. In March, I contacted Senator Tommy Moore, Chairman, of the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee. I sent him all the reports and asked him to please check to see if these meters had been banned. A letter to Senator Moore from Debbie Hammond, Executive Assistant, ORS, dated March 21<sup>st</sup>, states.... Our office has been in frequent contact with Ms. Ayer... our initial investigation concluded that no safety violations were involved in this incident...this meter has not been banned or recalled. At this point, it may be more helpful to Ms. Ayer if she contact her local company directly to relay any of her specific requests or demands.*

***What did Ms. Hammond believe SCE&G was going to do for me?***

***They were not accountable for the safety of their equipment and ORS concluded no safety violations were involved and Senator Moore asked "one question" on my behalf.***

***When my laundry room was rebuilt, cleaning of my home complete, and all my clothes and household items returned from smoke damage, I moved back into my home. I had a few sleepless nights wondering about the safety of my home and the safety of my neighbor's homes.***

***Having access to my computer again, I began to research splash-guards. The gas meter that was on my property was made by the American Meter Company. On their website they advertise splash-guards... it states...when the weather turns cold, regulator vents can freeze shut. It happens when water drips close to the regulator vent and then splashes back onto the vent screen. If the vent screen is at an ambient temperature below freezing, tiny droplets that splash onto it will give up their heat to the screen and immediately freeze. They have been in compliance since August 1998. If the splash-guard has been sold for at least seven years by American Meter, to protect these meters, why weren't they on these meters? With a little more research, I found another well-advertised website about splash-guards, Bennett Regulator Guards in Pennsylvania. Mr. Bennett, president and master fitter calls them vent-skirts. His ads were in American Gas June 1996, Midwest Gas Association Innovations February 1997, Gas Utility and Pipeline Industries February 2000, American Gas March 2001 and Gas Industries warning the utility companies of frozen regulator vents. Mr. Bennett's website says that this type meter can cause back splash, which can pose potential threats. One of those threats is the possibility of over pressure which can damage appliances or cause an explosion. He has been manufacturing vent-skirts since 1994. The cost of the vent skirt is less than \$5.00 per unit.***

***I could not believe that SCE&G risk the safety of my life and home for a \$5.00 part! The utility companies had been warned of a "potential hazard arising", for 10 years, but, yet they were not liable for this "incident"! So in other words, they "passed the buck" to me to warn my neighbors that if this happened to them, SCE&G would not be responsible. I had an obligation to let the public know of this danger to their homes. I contacted Channel 12 news with this information. The story aired on June 16<sup>th</sup>.***

*In the broadcast, Mr. Eric Boomhower, spokesperson for SCE&G said quote... "what you had was a freak occurrence, if you will" (he appeared to be shocked that a meter could freeze) also "if we feel it was necessary for safety to install these (splash-guards) on every unit we would do that, but honestly there's really no benefit". Mr. Boomhower, rule 103-425 A. for ORS states... Location of Meter... No customers meter shall be installed in any location where it may reasonably be expected to be exposed to damage. According to these rules and according to the facts of freezing regulator vents, when the utility company installed the #12 meter, below my roof valley, the combination of the two, was like playing a game of "Russian Roulette".*

*On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, seven days after the broadcast, ORS prepared an official advisory for all gas system operators explaining the "potential hazard" related to the meter set configuration that was the subject of the investigation. In the September 1<sup>st</sup> report, to the PSC, signed by Shannon Bowyer Hudson, it says, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the Pipeline Safety Department became aware of a non-reportable incident that occurred on January 29, 2005, at a residence located at 1140 Ridgecrest Avenue, North Augusta, S.C. After an extensive investigation among all parties involved in the facts surrounding the incident, we determined that there may be a "potential hazard arising" from the use of certain meter set configurations, such as the one used at this residence. I questioned Mr. Gainey as to why this report stated this was a non-reportable incident? ORS rules and regulations state under accidents 103-415, A. Each gas system shall, as soon as possible, report by telephone to the ORS each accident happening in connection with the operation of its property, facilities, or service, wherein any person shall have been killed or hospitalized with injuries or whereby such reporting is required by Subarticle 8. Such telephonic report shall later be supplemented by written reports if required by Subarticle 8. Each gas system shall, as soon as possible, report by telephone to the ORS all gas leaks not reportable under the above criteria, but resulting in property damage in excess of \$5,000.00. Such telephonic report shall later be supplemented by written report giving the cause and other details of the incident. Part B. states... Each gas system shall establish procedures for analyzing accidents for the purpose of determining the causes and minimizing the possibilities of recurrences.*

*SCE&G did not file a report of this incident to the ORS on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, I lived to report it!*

***On Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, I met with State Farm claim agent, Will Wrenn. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, I received a check for \$5981.44 which was less a \$1000.00 out of pocket deductible for damages for my laundry room. This did not include the electrician \$150.00, Duraclean \$2,734.01, Personal Property, \$1,744.21, Restoration Cleaners \$2,187.37 and an allowance of \$1,300.00 for being out of my home for 52 days. I also have an \$800.00 replacement cost of items until January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The total amount in damages by the end of March was around \$15,000.00. How did SCE&G conclude during an official investigation that my estimated damages were around \$3,000.00? Could this be the reason why I was the only "one" reported to have an over-pressure "incident" in the State of South Carolina, because I reported it. I had asked State Farm for a letter stating why they were not seeking subrogation from SCE&G... When clearly it was a frozen regulator on the meter... it states... after review of a report performed by Claim Representative Wrenn, supplied to us by Scana, it was determined that subrogation could not be pursued by State Farm Insurance. The report that was written by Frank Bouknight states... the gas meter failed as a result of ice build up within the meter. In the absence of ice the meter itself functioned properly. Furthermore, the report continues to state that the most likely cause of the explosion was a faulty regulator on the hot water heater. The water heater is believed to be 16 years old, therefore too old for us to pursue subrogation. Were the insurance companies across the United States not warned of a "potential hazard arising" from these meters ten years ago?***

***In October, I contacted my insurance company again to give them the information that the ORS had issued an advisory of a "potential hazard arising" from the #12 gas meters. I received another letter stating... This letter is to advise you that we will not pursue subrogation. Our action does not in anyway prevent you from pursuing a claim directly against the adverse party to recoup your deductible or any other damage not covered by your insurance policy. Our decision not to pursue subrogation at this time is two part. First of all, the age of the meter. Secondly, SCE&G was not required by law or code to replace the gas meters prior to loss. So, because the public utility company did not provide safe equipment on their own on my property for forty-two years, they again "passed the buck" to me.***

*In August, after sixty days, when the results from the official survey from ORS were in, SCE&G reported they had 12,800 #12 meters in use in South Carolina, but they "estimated" they did not have any affected by water that could cause an explosion.*

*On my street alone, I could see at least three from my home that needed to be changed. Did they not even survey my street? Channel 12 news reporter, Laurie Ott asked the ORS, on September 16<sup>th</sup>, why was the amount of "none reported", when clearly there were some. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, four days later ORS told Ms. Ott the amount from SCE&G was "estimated", but now they had a "more accurate" figure of 3,072.*

*Please tell me how SCE&G had a zero amount of #12 meters in a "sixty day" survey to an amount of 3,072 in four days. Also on the survey from ORS, the State of Georgia had reported "as many as 12" over pressure incidents. Atlanta Gas Light's first "open records" incident of over-pressure was on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1987 at 3:15 am in Cedartown, Georgia. Fortunately, Mrs. Dave Roberson, who was 82 years old, was not in her home. A call was made to the Georgia Public Service Commission about the incident and then followed by a written report. Mrs. Roberson's estimated damage was \$15,000. According to the report, the meter was manufactured in 1972 and installed in 1973. The investigation by AGL Manager, Mr. Glenn Welch and AGL Service Foreman, Mr. John Green states...It appeared that the snow had accumulated on top of the roof, began to melt and drip water on to the gas meter and regulator. Due to the drop in temperature, the dripping water turned into ice and froze shut the house regulator vent port. Since the regulator was closed, the venting gas could not escape and the regulator was unable to perform as designed. Were the utility companies advised of a "potential hazard arising" then, 17 years ago? The next reported over pressure incident occurred on February 2, 1996 in Alpharetta, Georgia. Upon arrival a two-story structure was on fire. Fire department personnel were able to contain the fire to one condominium, with only water & smoke damage to the adjoining unit. Operator's supervisor arrived on site and shortly after the operator's chief investigator arrived. The Georgia Public Service Commission, Office of Pipeline Safety was notified on February 4<sup>th</sup>. An investigation of the incident was performed. Inspectors of the Georgia Public Service Commission, Office of Pipeline Safety arrived at the site on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The operator had removed the gas meter along with the regulator.*

**He discovered a presence of dirt and water in the regulator. The area was experiencing extreme cold and on February 5<sup>th</sup> when the inspectors were at the site, a "collection of ice on gas meters and regulators" on adjoining equipment was observed. This was believed to come from water cascading from the roofs of the condominiums.**

**It was concluded the probable cause of this incident was the accumulation in the regulator of dirt and water, combined with the extreme cold caused the water collected in the regulator to freeze. Thus causing the equipment to fail and allowed inlet side pressure to be delivered to the customer's equipment. Was a "National Advisory" of a "potential hazard arising" not sent to Utility Companies, Insurance companies, or the Public Service Commission's in 1996?**

**As of the first of December, according to Mr. Boomhower, SCE&G has inspected 90% of the meter sets in the State of South Carolina and have installed around 7700 splash-guards... The ORS is aware SCE&G has been "voluntarily" installing splash-guards on some of these meters and also that Atlanta Gas Light, as a company policy, is installing splash guards on this type of meter. Atlanta Gas Light, according to Danny McGriff, Pipeline Safety Director, began installing splash-guards in 2001. The website of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners says that Brent Sires, ORS, SCPSC, Chief of the Gas Utilities Department and Danny McGriff, GPSC, Pipeline Safety are both on the staff sub committee. Were the utility companies in other states not warned in 2001?**

**Would you trust SCE&G to "voluntarily" change your meter when Mr. Boomhower, publicly said, quote: "If we feel it was necessary for safety to install these on every unit we would do that, but honestly there's really no benefit." Would you trust SCE&G to "voluntarily" change your meter when they estimated in a sixty day "Official Survey" they had "none" affected by water out of almost 13,000 #12 meters...? Would you trust SCE&G to "voluntarily" change your meter, if they underestimated your property damage by \$12,000 and did not report an explosion in your home to the PSC? And would you trust your utility company to "voluntarily" change your meter, considering they were aware of back-splash from these meters for possibly "eighteen years" or more?**

**In June, I wrote Governor Mark Sanford to inform him of the danger of these meters in the State of South Carolina.**

**Governor Sanford had proclaimed June as "Safety Month" and had encouraged all South Carolinians to learn more about health and safety for home, work and play and to take the "necessary" steps to reduce the risk of serious injury and death.**

**His proclamation stated: each year around two thousand people from South Carolina alone, die from "preventable causes" and another 27 million Americans suffer from "preventable injuries". He responded with a letter in July, informing me he had contacted the ORS. I received another letter from Governor Sanford in August with a letter attached from Mr. Dukes Scott, Executive Director of the ORS.**

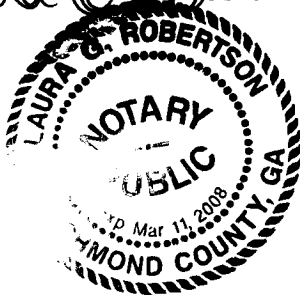
**Mr. Scott told Governor Sanford ... "the rules and regulations governing incident reporting did not apply to this particular incident, and therefore, the company was not required to file a report with our agency. It was only after Ms. Ayer contacted our office (in February) to file a complaint that we began our investigation.**

**We are indeed concerned about the explosion in Ms. Ayer's home and will take the appropriate action. Certainly, one incident is too many.**

**Thank you.**

*Laura Ayer*

*Laura Robertson*



## Gas Fire / Explosion Investigation Report

This report should be completed to record necessary information on gas-related fires or explosions and to promote safe work practices during emergency response. Upon arrival at the scene, make immediate contact with the ranking Emergency Response Official. Identify yourself, stating your name, company, and department, and begin the investigation of the incident and determine the extent of any injuries. The first objective is to make the situation safe. After the site has been made safe, appropriate notifications should be made, that may include, Management, Claims, Corporate Communications, Safety, Security, outside agencies including P.S.C., D.O.T., D.H.E.C., or Fire and Building Inspectors.

The following information should be obtained and tests performed and documented. Take pictures if practical.

1. Service Address 1140 Ridgcrest Ave Account # [REDACTED]
2. Brief Statement of What Occurred Explosion at the water heater
3. Odorant Test: Name of Individual Performing Test \_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument Serial # 6701 Results: See attach sheet  
\* Attach Odorant Check Report.
4. Leak Survey (Service and Main): Service Survey: Positive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative: No Leak  
Main Survey: Positive: \_\_\_\_\_ Negative: No Leak Survey Conducted By: Clint Fulmer  
\* Attach Gas Leak Report
5. Ethane Identification Test (if combustible gas was detected): Positive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative \_\_\_\_\_  
Analysis of gas by Independent Laboratory - Sample of gas collected with vacu-sampler  
Name of Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Attach copy of lab analysis
6. Check and record the working and lock-up pressure of the regulator: Regulator did not lock up
7. Meter Test Data: Meter # 204467 Open \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_  
Test Conducted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Tested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Remove meter & regulator, if necessary, plug and lock value. If meter and/or regulator is damaged, tag meter and regulator, and fill out property damage report. Tag all equipment that may be used as an exhibit at a later date.
8. System Pressure 35 PSI (Attach system pressure charts from nearest system monitoring locations and city gate charts.)
9. Retrieve and file any pertinent records including but not limited to:
  - a. Leak Survey & Leak Sheets
  - b. Gas service card with service test information, date installed, type material, and installer.
  - c. Previous pertinent account histories on usage & gas service work performed including any caution tags for irregular conditions
  - d. Fire Department reports
  - e. Police Department reports
  - f. Coroners reports
  - g. Third party investigation reports
  - h. Chronology of incident, response time and notification times
10. Names and addresses of property owners & injured:

Name	Address / Injuries
<u>Janice Ayer</u>	<u>1140 Ridgcrest</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
11. Follow up on conditions of injured, restore or discontinue service based on the investigation and authorization of regulatory authority. Issue follow-up orders if needed.
12. Comments: REGULATOR WAS ICED UP, AFTER REGULATOR THAWED, WORKING PRESSURE WAS 6.5" W.C. AND LOCK-UP PRESSURE WAS 7.25" W.C.

Report Filed By: Clint S. Fulmer Title: Service man Date: 1-29-2005  
Report Approved By: [Signature] Title: MANAGER Date: 2/2/05

16

**NORTH AUGUSTA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
FIRE INCIDENT REPORT**

<table border="0"><tr><td style="width: 50%;">CALL NUMBER</td><td>2005-01-4031-SC</td></tr><tr><td>DATE:</td><td>01/29/2005</td></tr><tr><td>TIME OUT:</td><td>01/29/2005 10:45</td></tr><tr><td>INCIDENT ADDRESS</td><td>1140 RIDGECREST DR NORTH AUGUSTA SC 29841-</td></tr><tr><td>OCCUPANT'S NAME</td><td>JANICE AYER</td></tr><tr><td>OWNER'S NAME</td><td>JANICE AYER</td></tr><tr><td>OWNER'S ADDRESS</td><td>1140 RIDGECREST DR. N. AUGUSTA, SC 29841</td></tr><tr><td>TYPE CALL:</td><td>911 CALL</td></tr><tr><td>TYPE FIRE</td><td>STRUCTURE FIRE (SINGLE FAMILY)</td></tr><tr><td>APPARATUS</td><td>E-4, E-1, T-8</td></tr><tr><td>AIR PACKS USED</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>INJURIES</td><td>NONE</td></tr><tr><td>REMARKS</td><td>On the above date and time this department responded to the above incident location in reference to a structure fire. Upon the first unit arrival smoke and fire was emitting from enclosed back porch. A hose pipe was used to extinguish the fire prior to the arrival of Engine 4. The cause of fire was due to a malfunction in the hot water heater that resulted in an explosion. A PPV fan was used to rid the house of all remaining smoke. No further action was taken by this department.</td></tr><tr><td>PAGER NUMBERS:</td><td>211</td></tr></table>	CALL NUMBER	2005-01-4031-SC	DATE:	01/29/2005	TIME OUT:	01/29/2005 10:45	INCIDENT ADDRESS	1140 RIDGECREST DR NORTH AUGUSTA SC 29841-	OCCUPANT'S NAME	JANICE AYER	OWNER'S NAME	JANICE AYER	OWNER'S ADDRESS	1140 RIDGECREST DR. N. AUGUSTA, SC 29841	TYPE CALL:	911 CALL	TYPE FIRE	STRUCTURE FIRE (SINGLE FAMILY)	APPARATUS	E-4, E-1, T-8	AIR PACKS USED	2	INJURIES	NONE	REMARKS	On the above date and time this department responded to the above incident location in reference to a structure fire. Upon the first unit arrival smoke and fire was emitting from enclosed back porch. A hose pipe was used to extinguish the fire prior to the arrival of Engine 4. The cause of fire was due to a malfunction in the hot water heater that resulted in an explosion. A PPV fan was used to rid the house of all remaining smoke. No further action was taken by this department.	PAGER NUMBERS:	211	<table border="0"><tr><td style="width: 50%;">JURISDICTION</td><td>IN CITY LIMITS</td></tr><tr><td>DAY</td><td>Saturday</td></tr><tr><td>TIME IN</td><td>01/29/2005 11:46</td></tr><tr><td>APARTMENT NUMBER</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>TELEPHONE #:</td><td>(803) 278-7215</td></tr><tr><td>OWNER TELEPHONE #</td><td>(803) 278-7215</td></tr><tr><td>PERSON REPORTING INCIDENT</td><td>FRANCES BROOKS</td></tr><tr><td>TAG OR VIN NUMBER</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>STATE:</td><td>SC</td></tr><tr><td>EXTINGUISHERS USED</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	JURISDICTION	IN CITY LIMITS	DAY	Saturday	TIME IN	01/29/2005 11:46	APARTMENT NUMBER	N/A	TELEPHONE #:	(803) 278-7215	OWNER TELEPHONE #	(803) 278-7215	PERSON REPORTING INCIDENT	FRANCES BROOKS	TAG OR VIN NUMBER	N/A	STATE:	SC	EXTINGUISHERS USED	0
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ATKINSON, RYAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BASKINS, SUSAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BELL, III, ROBERT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BUTLER, JAMES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BUTLER, MORGAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CALLOWAY, BARRY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COUGHENOUR, THOMAS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CROWELL, JAMES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DELAUGHTER, RONALD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EAKINS, GEORGE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GORE, LEONARD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GRIFFIN, DAVID <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOWARD, SR., PAUL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HUGHES, JOSEPH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LUCKEY, WILLIAM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OLIPHANT, LINDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PEARSON, TIMOTHY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REDD, TRAVIS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RUBEN, JAMES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SADLER, VERNE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SCHAFER, ERIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SWANN JR., ALLEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	THORNTON, RONALD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TRIPP, TYRONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VARCHOL, MARK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WETHERINGTON, TOY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMS, JR, CHARLES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BUNCH, DAVID <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COOK, II, LOUIS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DUKE, WAYNE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAYES, KEVIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MALCOM, JONATHAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS, TOM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SHAW, IV, JOHN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TURNER, SR., PHILLIP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

ON DUTY:

OFF DUTY:

☒ BESIDE NAME INDICATES OFF DUTY RESPONDER

EMP OPERATOR HAYES, KEVIN

SUPERVISOR

SWANN JR., ALLEN

2005 12:18:32 PM



February 1, 2005

Ms. Janice Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Ave.  
North Augusta, SC 29841-3056

RE: incident at 1140 Ridgecrest Ave. North Augusta, SC

Dear Ms. Ayer:

SCE&G responded to a call at your residence located at 1140 Ridgecrest Ave. in North Augusta SC on January, 29, 2005. Upon arrival we noted that a natural gas explosion appeared to have occurred in the back portion of your home near the hot water heater. The following tests were performed: odorant (to test for smell) a leak test (to determine if there were any leaks) and a measurement test (to determine the pressure of the gas); the odorant test and the leak test were all normal. The pressure test revealed that a higher than normal pressure was present. An investigation of what was causing this increase in the pressure was then conducted. Examination of the meter was normal but the regulator seemed to have been stuck. The inspection of the regulator then took place. The regulator contained ice which had caused the regulator to function improperly. Also the relief vent was clogged with ice, which prevented it from working properly. The regulator was removed and after the ice was removed, examined and found to be working properly.

In cases when higher than normal gas pressure is present, the appliance may be able to shut off the flow of natural gas therefore decreasing the chances of a natural gas build up in an area. The hot water heater at your residence may not have functioned properly. Please contact me should you have questions.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Bouknight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank Bouknight  
Claim Agent

# NORTH AUGUSTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE INCIDENT REPORT

CALL NUMBER: 2005-01-4031-SC DATE: 01/29/2005 TIME OUT: 01/29/2005 10:45 INCIDENT ADDRESS: 1140 RIDGECREST DR NORTH AUGUSTA SC 29841- OCCUPANT'S NAME: JANICE AYER OWNER'S NAME: JANICE AYER OWNER'S ADDRESS: 1140 RIDGECREST DR. N. AUGUSTA, SC 29841 TYPE CALL: 911 CALL TYPE FIRE: STRUCTURE FIRE (SINGLE FAMILY) APPARATUS: E-4, E-1, T-8 AIR PACKS USED: 2	JURISDICTION: IN CITY LIMITS DAY: Saturday TIME IN: 01/29/2005 11:46 APARTMENT NUMBER: N/A TELEPHONE #: (803) 278-7215 OWNER TELEPHONE #: (803) 278-7215 PERSON REPORTING INCIDENT: FRANCES BROOKS TAG OR VIN NUMBER: N/A STATE: SC EXTINGUISHERS USED: 0
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INJURIES: NONE

REMARKS: On the above date and time this department responded to the above incident location in reference to a structure fire. Upon the first units arrival smoke and fire was emitting from enclosed back porch. A hose pipe was used to extinguish the fire prior to the arrival of Engine 4. The cause of fire was due to a malfunction in the hot water heater that resulted in an explosion. A PPV fan was used to rid the house of all remaining smoke. No further action was taken by this department. On 02/04/05 met with Janice Ayer who had a letter from SCE&G. They checked her gas meter and found that the regulator had frozen which ultimately caused the explosion. Ms. Ayer wanted this information added to the report. Letter attached.

PAGER NUMBERS: 211	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ATKINSON, RYAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BASKINS, SUSAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BELL, III, ROBERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUNCH, DAVID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUTLER, JAMES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUTLER, MORGAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CALLOWAY, BARRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COOK, II, LOUIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COUGHENOUR, THOMAS
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUBEN, JAMES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SADLER, VERNE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REDD, TRAVIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROGERS, TOM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUBEN, JAMES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWANN JR., ALLEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THORNTON, RONALD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCHAFFER, ERIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHAW, IV, JOHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWANN JR., ALLEN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WARCHOL, MARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WETHERINGTON, TOY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRIPP, TYRONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TURNER, SR., PHILLIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WARCHOL, MARK
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WILLIAMS, JR, CHARLES		

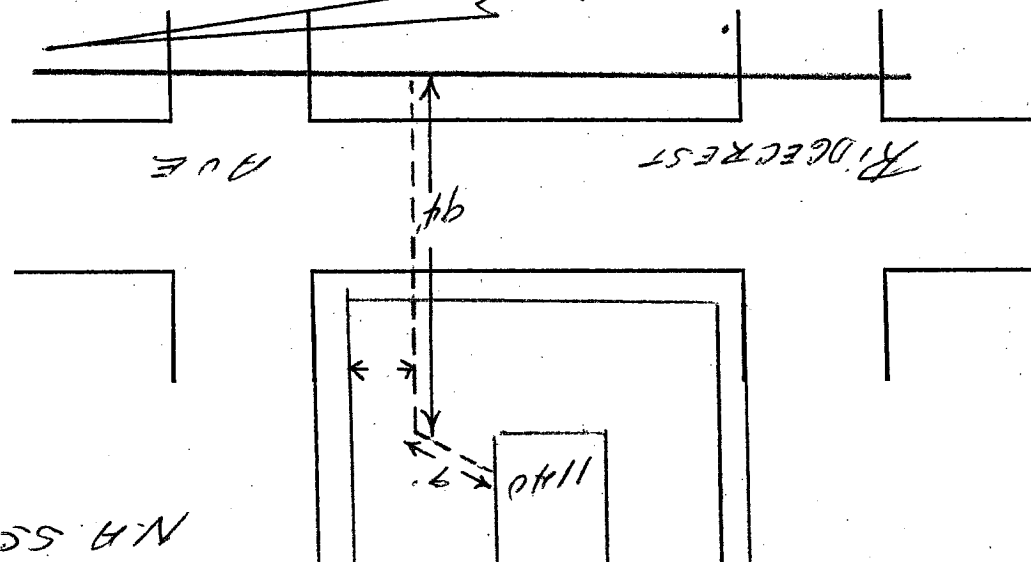
ON DUTY: 7 OFF DUTY: 28 ☒ BESIDE NAME INDICATES OFF DUTY RESPONDE

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Remarks.

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Renewed ☐ Date                     

## CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION

NA CODE COVERS GAS  
PIPING WITHIN THE DWELLING

SG  
Smith

### SECTION 101 (IFGC) GENERAL

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the *Fuel Gas Code* of [NAME OF JURISDICTION], hereinafter referred to as "this code."

**101.2 Scope.** This code shall apply to the installation of fuel gas piping systems, fuel gas utilization equipment, and related accessories as follows:

1. Coverage of piping systems shall extend from the point of delivery to the connections with gas utilization equipment (see "Point of delivery").
2. Systems with an operating pressure of 125 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) (862 kPa gauge) or less.

Piping systems for gas-air mixtures within the flammable range with an operating pressure of 10 psig (69 kPa gauge).

LP-gas piping systems with an operating pressure of 20 psig (140 kPa gauge) or less.

3. Piping systems requirements shall include design, materials, components, fabrication, assembly, installation, testing, inspection, operation, and maintenance.
4. Requirements for gas utilization equipment and related accessories shall include installation, combustion and ventilation air and venting.

This code shall not apply to the following:

1. Portable LP-gas equipment of all types that is not connected to a fixed fuel piping system.
2. Installation of farm equipment such as brooders, dehydrators, dryers, and irrigation equipment.
3. Raw material (feedstock) applications except for piping to special atmosphere generators.
4. Oxygen-fuel gas cutting and welding systems.
5. Industrial gas applications using gases such as acetylene and acetylenic compounds, hydrogen, ammonia, carbon monoxide, oxygen, and nitrogen.
6. Petroleum refineries, pipeline compressor or pumping stations, loading terminals, compounding plants, refinery tank farms, and natural gas processing plants.
7. Integrated chemical plants or portions of such plants where flammable or combustible liquids or gases are produced by chemical reactions or used in chemical reactions.

8. LP-gas installations at utility gas plants.
9. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) installations.
10. Fuel gas piping in power and atomic energy plants.
11. Proprietary items of equipment, apparatus, or instruments such as gas-generating sets, compressors, and calorimeters.
12. LP-gas equipment for vaporization, gas mixing, and gas manufacturing.
13. Temporary LP-gas piping for buildings under construction or renovation that is not to become part of the permanent piping system.
14. Installation of LP-gas systems for railroad switch heating.
15. Installation of LP-gas and compressed natural gas (CNG) systems on vehicles.
16. Except as provided in Section 401.1.1, gas piping, meters, gas pressure regulators, and other appurtenances used by the serving gas supplier in the distribution of gas, other than undiluted LP-gas.
17. Building design and construction, except as specified herein.

**101.2.1 Other fuels.** The requirements for the design, installation, maintenance, alteration and inspection of mechanical systems operating with fuels other than fuel gas shall be regulated by the *International Mechanical Code*.

**101.3 Appendices.** Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted.

**101.4 Intent.** The purpose of this code is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation and maintenance or use of fuel gas systems.

**101.5 Severability.** If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

### SECTION 102 (IFGC) APPLICABILITY

**102.1 General.** The provisions of this code shall apply to all matters affecting or relating to structures and premises, as set forth in Section 101. Where, in a specific case, different sections of this code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

C. DUKES SCOTT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Post Office Box 11263  
Columbia, SC 29211



Phone: (803) 737-5230  
Fax: (803) 737-4750

DAN E. ARNETT  
CHIEF OF STAFF

APRIL B. SHARPE  
MANAGER OF CONSUMER SERVICES

March 2, 2005

Jan Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Avenue  
North Augusta, SC 29841

Re: Explosion on 01/29/2005

Dear Ms. Ayre:

Pursuant to our conversations regarding the above referenced incident, I have forwarded your complaint to the Pipeline Safety Area. As a reminder, this area will visit SCE&G to determine if they are in compliance with the Regulations as they apply to this area of interest.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Regulations pertaining to Part 192 Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Federal Safety Standards. Please review these regulations at your convenience

If there are any further questions and or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-922-1531, extension 5233.

Sincerely,

Edwina Sanders-Lisbon, Investigator  
Consumer Services

**SCE&G** | Gas Operations (104) • Columbia, South Carolina • 29218 • T (803) 217 0840 • [WWW.SCEG.COM](http://www.sceg.com)

THOMAS L. MOORE  
SENATOR, AIKEN, EDGEFIELD,  
MCCORMICK, AND SALUDA  
COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 25

HOME ADDRESS:  
BOX 400  
CLEARWATER, SC 29822  
PHONE: (803) 593-4007  
HOME: (803) 593-5756



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MEDICAL AFFAIRS  
ETHICS  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY  
RULES

STATE HOUSE ADDRESS:  
SUITE 513  
GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BLDG.  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
PHONE: 803-212-6156

March 22, 2005

Ms. Janice Ayre  
1140 Ridgcrest Avenue  
North Augusta, S.C. 29841-3056

Dear Ms. Ayre:

Enclosed please find a copy of the latest correspondence that I have received from the Office of Regulatory Staff. This is as per a request that you made of my office as a follow up to a telephone conversation.

Very truly yours,

  
Thomas L. Moore

TLM:awp

ayre-3-csvors

Mar 21 2005 1:44PM OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF 803-737-0943

P.1



March 21, 2005

The Honorable Thomas L. Moore  
Chairman, State Regulation of Public Utilities  
Review Committee  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Re: Janice Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Avenue  
North Augusta, SC 29841

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you are aware, our office has been in frequent contact with Ms. Ayer to ensure that safety issues dealing with the fire at her home are addressed by the company. Our initial investigation concluded that no safety violations were involved in the incident. Our Pipeline Safety Inspector discussed his findings with Ms. Ayer. You also asked that our office investigate your concern about the possibility of the meter located at the Ayer residence prior to the fire as being "banned." Upon our information, this meter has not been banned or recalled.

At this point, it may be more helpful to Ms. Ayer if she contact her local company directly to relay any of her other specific requests or demands.

If our office can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

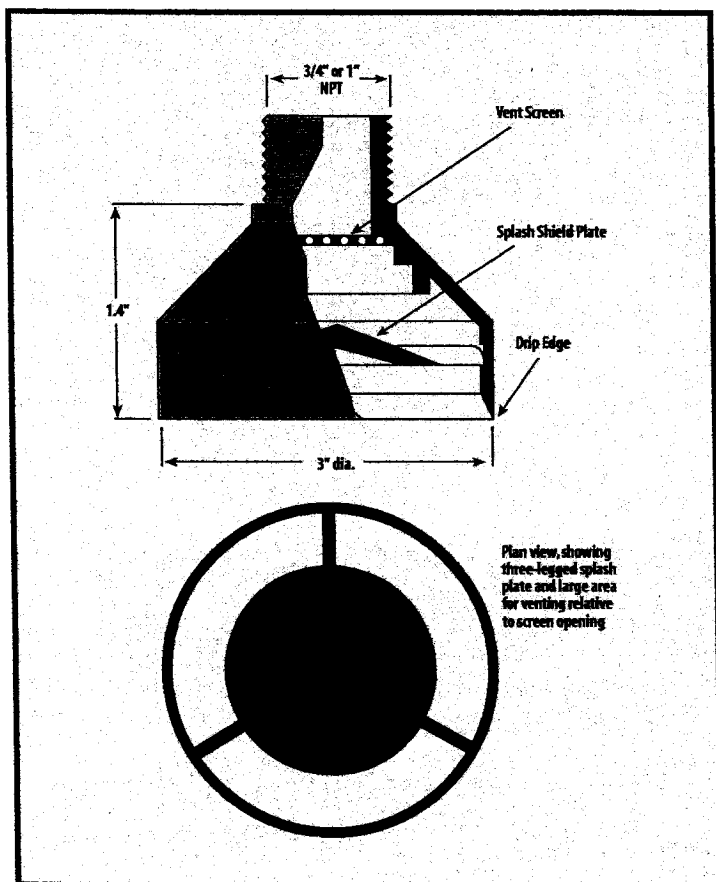
Debbie Hammond  
Executive Assistant

## A Simple Solution For Freezing Regulator Vents

When the weather turns cold, regulator vents can freeze shut — preventing the regulator's diaphragm chamber from breathing. This is a common problem among utilities doing business in areas that experience melting snow or freezing rain. Nothing is quite so simple or effective as Splash Guard.

During extensive testing, we identified the primary source of vent freezing as the "Splash Back Effect." It happens when water drips close to the regulator vent and then splashes back onto the vent screen. If the vent screen is at an ambient temperature below freezing, tiny water droplets that splash onto it will give up their heat to the screen and immediately freeze.

Simple, rugged, and easily installed, Splash Guard protects the vent screen from splashes and provides a large venting area to keep regulators working effectively.



<b>Application:</b>	Regulators with 3/4" and 1" NPT diaphragm vents; factory or field installation
<b>Material of Construction:</b>	UV stabilized, weatherable, Loctite compatible resin
<b>Strength:</b>	Impact resistance through material and thread design
<b>Regulator Compatibility:</b>	Minimal affect on regulator relief characteristics. Uses same size vent screen as regulator.
<b>Compliance:</b>	CGA 6.18A Certified, ANSI B109.4 in August 1998, and CSA Z662-99 Sect. 12.4.10
<b>Sizes:</b>	3/4" and 1" NPT with stainless steel screen
<b>Color:</b>	Medium gray
<b>Packaging:</b>	19" x 16 x 9 box, quantity of 200 assemblies

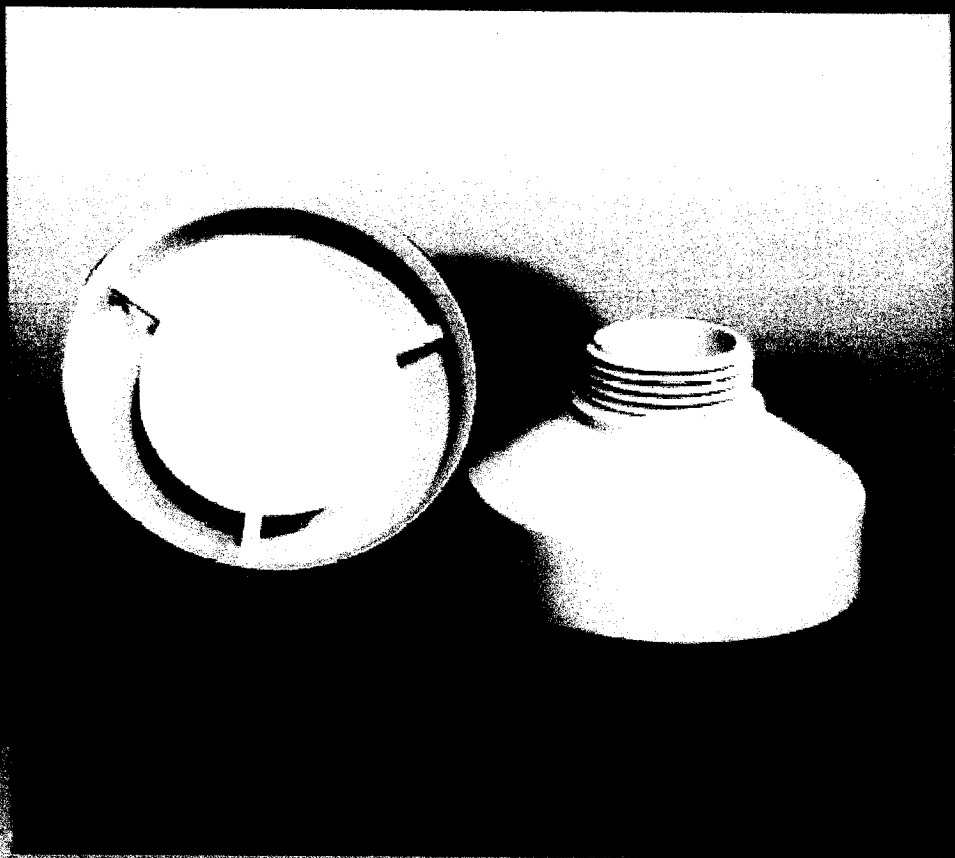
Size	Part Number
3/4"	700,200
3/4" Short Thread	7000,200S
1"	700,202



275 Industrial Road  
Cambridge, Ontario  
Canada N3H 4R7  
Phone: 519/650-1900 • Fax 519/650-1917  
www.canadianmeter.com

ELSTER AMCO

## Splash Guard



NASG



# BENNETT

## Regulator Guards, Inc.

Bright ideas for the utility industry

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**Bennett Regulator Guards, Inc. has developed a revolutionary solution to reduce the probability of ice formation on the relief vents of gas pressure regulators.**

Wintry conditions can pose many threats to the natural gas industry. Some of these threats are the possibility of the loss of gas pressure, or a possible dangerous over-pressure condition caused by an ice blocked relief vent.

Our vent skirts are extremely durable, inexpensive, easy to install, and they look like part of the metering equipment.

Installation procedures allow your mechanic to install our products without interrupting the flow of gas to your customer. Installation takes only minutes, and is so easy that some utilities have hired college students to perform installations in the summer months. In addition, the use of the BRG vent skirt will eliminate the wasted, costly time to de-ice and restore gas service. Even more important is the assurance and peace of mind that comes with customer satisfaction and safety.

**Bennett Regulator Guards, Inc. is the leading manufacturer of products for regulator vent protection.**



**American 1213 I  
with Meter Bar S  
(click image for c**

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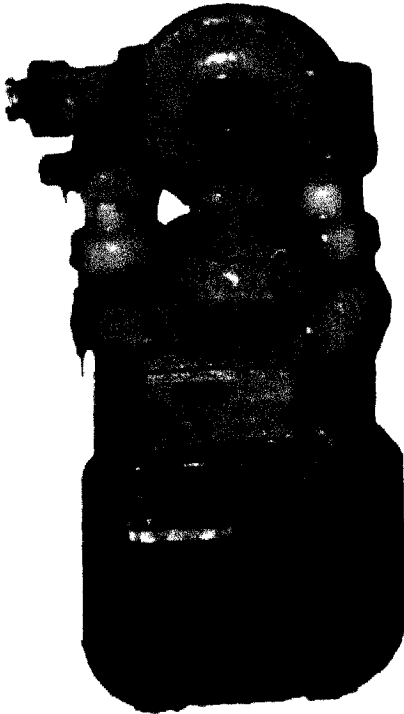
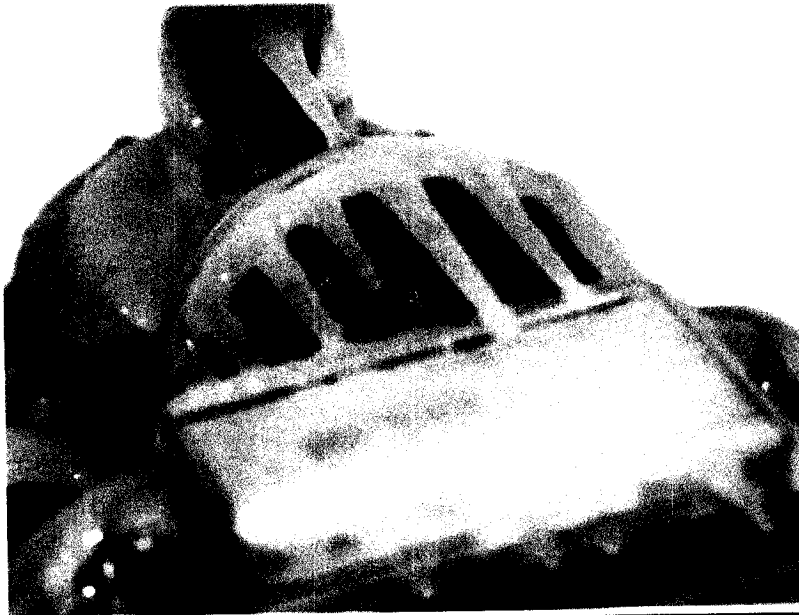
**Model # MBVS-1200 Freeze Test**

Photo on left shows American 1213 B Regulator with Meter Bar Skirt installed, completely encased in ice. The assembly was maintained at 15 ° Fahrenheit. Water was poured onto unit to represent roof gutter run-off. Pressurized water was sprayed at and around unit to represent freezing rain.

Photo below shows the relief vent and surrounding area clear of any blockages. The surface area of the vent has been increased from 1 square inch to 15 sq inches.



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## Corporate Profile

[Home](#)

Bennett Regulator Guards, Inc. is a manufacturing company, providing products for the natural gas industry. Our customers are natural gas utilities and distributors who represent our products.

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In business since 1994, BRG offers a variety of regulator vent skirts designed to protect the relief vents of gas pressure regulators from the adverse affects of inclement weather.

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Bennett Regulator Guards, Inc. has developed a revolutionary solution to reduce the probability of ice formation on the relief vents of gas pressure regulators.

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## Products

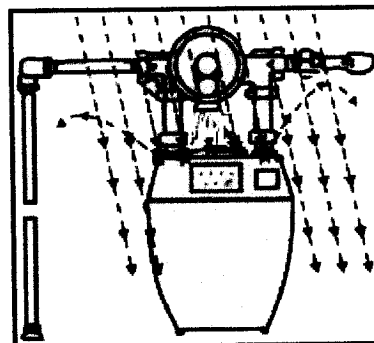
[Home](#)[Home](#)[Products](#)[Home](#)[Home](#)[Home](#)

**Bennett Regulator Guards offers a variety of vent skirts, designed to adapt to various metering equipment.**

Currently, we offer three patented vent skirts. First is the Universal vent skirt, model # UVS-498, designed to protect a wide variety of gas pressure regulators with a relief vent opening of 1 inch or less.

Next, we offer the Fisher vent skirt, model # FVS-394, designed specifically for the Fisher 254 and 252 regulators.

Also, we have our Meter Bar vent skirt, model # MBVS-1200, designed to protect a wide variety of meter bar regulators with 3/4 inch NPT threads



**All three models are designed to protect against back splash, as shown in our animation which demonstrates effects of this on an unprotected meter.**

[MBVS-1200](#)[MBVS-1200](#)[MBVS-1200](#)

All of our vent skirts are manufactured from HDPE, one of the best suited plastics for outdoor usage. It's impact strength tests better than most plastics. It performs well at high temperatures and yet maintains its high impact strength at very low temperatures.

HDPE also resists the build up of insect proteins. The product has a UV stabilizer injected to protect it from the sun's damaging rays. In certain situations, our products may be manufactured with LDPE, designed for greater durability in extreme temperatures.

Our products have been awarded **US Patent no. 5,810,029** and are being used widely across the United States.

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## Press Release

[Home](#)[◀ Back](#)[Home](#)

### **Skirting the Icing Issue** *American Gas, June 1996*

[Products](#)[Manufacturing](#)[Manufacturing](#)[Manufacturing](#)

Bennett Regulator Guards Inc. has developed an anti-icing Vent Skirt designed to reduce the probability of ice forming on the relief vent of pressure regulators. According to the company, the patented product protects the relief opening in two ways: its shape prevents freezing rain from accumulating as an icicle on the relief vent itself and, since the product shelters the surfaces of the meter and the meter bezel from freezing rain, splashes cannot reach the relief vent.

Bennett says the product is made from durable plastic and installs in minutes without interrupting the flow of gas to customers. And, says the company, unlike snorkel-type solutions, the Vent Skirt will not cause the regulator to chatter.

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## Press Release

[Home](#)[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Corporate Profile](#)[Home](#)[Manufacturing](#)[Manufacturing](#)[Manufacturing](#)

### **New Anti-icing Vent Skirt is Inexpensive, Easy to Install and Increases Safety**

*Midwest Gas Association Innovations, February 1997, Volume 1, Issue 4*

*A solution to ice-blocked relief vents on pressure regulators has been developed that is effective, economical, durable and installs in minutes.*

Cold, wind, snow, ice and freezing rain across the Midwest have made this a winter to remember – and one most people would rather forget.

Harsh conditions like these can make life inconvenient for homeowners. But it can also pose potential threats. One of those threats is the possibility of over pressure or loss of natural gas service into a house caused by an ice- blocked relief vent on the pressure regulator.

Bennett Regulator Guards, Inc. has developed an effective, economical and durable solution that installs in minutes, without interrupting gas service to customers.

The "Universal" Vent Guard is a patented anti-icing vent skirt that reduces the probability of ice forming on the relief vent of pressure regulators in two ways. First, its shape prevents freezing rain from accumulating as an icicle on the relief vent itself. Second, a baffle prevents splashes from reaching and forming as ice on the relief vent.

The easy-to-maintain vent skirt looks like part of the meter. It attaches to a wide variety of models of service regulators by means of a close nipple threaded into the relief vent. The nipple is followed by a vent guard which is locked down with a lock nut. A screen and screen holder follow. The assembly is finished with a baffle, which snaps into place.

According to Greg Bennett, president, and master fitter, the installed vent skirt actually increases the effective opening of the relief vent from one square-inch to 25 square-inches. And unlike snorkel-type solutions, which extend the vent, the vent skirt will not chatter – it won't compromise the back pressure of the regulator.

The product is made from durable high-density polyethylene (HDPE)—one of the best-suited plastics for all-temperature outdoor use.

HDPE is stronger in terms of impact than most other plastics. It behaves well at higher temperatures, such as in direct sun light, but maintains great impact strength at very low temperatures — unlike many other plastics which can shatter at low temperatures. HDPE also provides good UV resistance.

Cost of the vent skirt is less than \$5 per unit and it only takes a minute to install.

According to Bennett, a manufactured snorkel-type fitting costs about \$14. Creating one costs about \$8 in pipe fittings. Snorkel-type solutions can take about 15 to 30-minutes to install. "The vent skirt can save labor costs," Bennett says. "It's so easy to install that some utilities hire college and high school students for the job. I can do it in about 30 seconds."

In addition, use of the vent skirt can eliminate costly time to de-ice an unprotected meter and restore gas service to a home. Even more important is the assurance of customer safety by avoiding an over pressure situation which can damage appliances or even cause an explosion.

For more information on the Universal Vent. Guard, contact Greg Bennett at 717.993.6677.

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## Press Release

[Home](#)[Back](#)[Next](#)[Home](#)

### **Regulator Vents**

*Gas Utility and Pipeline Industries, February 2000*

[Home](#)

Bennett Regulator Guards, Inc. has a patented solution to the familiar problem of ice-blocked relief vents on gas pressure regulators. The company manufactures a line of Vent Skirts designed to reduce the probability of ice formation on the relief vent.

[Home](#)[Press Releases](#)[Home](#)

First up is the Universal vent skirt. It's designed to protect a wide variety of gas pressure regulators with a relief vent opening of 1 in or less. It adapts by means of installing a close, all-thread nipple into the relief vent opening. Just slide the upper skirt onto the nipple against the base of the regulator and the vent is secured with a screen holder and 16-gauge stainless steel screen.

There's also the Fisher 250 Series vent skirt, especially made for Fisher 254 and 252 regulators. Its shape prevents freezing rain from accumulating as an icicle on the relief vent and, since the product shelters the surfaces on the meter and the regulator, splashes can't reach the relief vent.

Both the Universal and Fisher skirts shield the relief vent from any blockages caused by inclement weather. Loss of gas pressure or a possibly dangerous over-pressure are examples of the affects caused by an ice-blocked relief vent.

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## Press Release

[Home](#)[Back](#)[Next](#)[Home](#)

### **Anti-icing Vent Skirts** *American Gas, March 2001*

[Home](#)

Bennett Regulator Guards Inc. manufactures a line of patented anti-icing vent skirts designed to reduce the probability of ice formation on the relief vents of gas pressure regulators.

[Manufacturing](#)[Home](#)

The new Meter Bar vent skirt protects a wide variety of meter bar regulators with  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch NPT threads. Meter bar regulators are positioned with their vents directly above the meter, allowing minimal clearance and in the 6 o'clock position. Once the vent skirt is installed, the surface area around the vent increases from 1 square inch to 15 square inches. The shape of the vent skirt shelters the relief vent opening and prevents precipitation from accumulating on the vent itself, says the company. The vent skirt also shelters surfaces of the meter to prevent splashes from reaching the vent, the maker reports.

[Home](#)

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**INDUSTRIES**  
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## **A look at regulators**

**Back to Article Index**

### **Pressure regulators**

The Type EZR pilot-operated pressure regulator, from Fisher Controls, is designed for natural gas transmission/distribution systems and industrial/commercial applications. It's an internally actuated, metal plug-style regulator featuring advanced flow technology, smooth, quiet operation, and tight, reliable shutoff in all service conditions, the company says.

The new Type VR1 Integrated Regulator Vault, nicknamed Regulator in a Can, contains two Type EZR regulators inside a sealed steel unit, forming a secure, self-contained station. The configuration enhances underground natural gas installations by minimizing risk of damage to regulators and equipment.

The primary feature of the company's new 67CF Series next generation instrument air supply regulator is its ability to consistently provide tight, reliable shutoff. This can save plant resources otherwise used to provide the air, natural gas, or inert gas required to power digital or pneumatic instruments.

Available in a compact, lightweight package, the series meets all instrumentation demands with greater accuracy, lower operating costs, smaller size, easier mounting, and more robust construction for all service conditions. The 67CF Series also has a higher setpoint capability — 0 to 125 psig (0 to 8,7 bar) — to supply new high-tech instruments like FIELDVUE, as well as rugged high-pressure piston operators.

**Write 2320 on GASFAX card**

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### **Regulator adapter**

The Flowgrid Type E/F Adapter from Mooney Controls converts any valve/regulator that uses a 2-in. Fisher e-body to a Flowgrid pressure regulator. Simply bolt the adapter to the existing e-body to benefit from Mooney's pressure control regulator. It's been dubbed a sensible alternative and offers another choice and a chance to try the Flowgrid with minimal risk, effort, and expense. It can be installed on an e-type valve body in a matter of minutes, saving companies the added work and expense of removing a valve body from the pipeline. Customers have the option of using the existing regulator's control pilot or adding a Mooney Controls Series 20 pilot system, with pressure boost technology, to the E/F Adapter. It's currently available in a 2-in. size, with additional sizes scheduled to be developed soon.

**Write 2321 on GASFAX card**

## Regulator vents

Bennett Regulator Guards, Inc. has a patented solution to the familiar problem of ice-blocked relief vents on gas pressure regulators. The company manufactures a line of Vent Skirts designed to reduce the probability of ice formation on the relief vent.

First up is the Universal vent skirt. It's designed to protect a wide variety of gas pressure regulators with a relief vent opening of 1 in. or less. It adapts by means of installing a close, all-thread nipple into the relief vent opening. Just slide the upper skirt onto the nipple against the base of the regulator and the vent is secured with a screen holder and 16-gauge stainless steel screen.

There's also the Fisher 250 Series vent skirt, especially made for Fisher 254 and 252 regulators. Its shape prevents freezing rain from accumulating as an icicle on the relief vent and, since the product shelters the surfaces on the meter and the regulator, splashes can't reach the relief vent.

Both the Universal and Fisher skirts shield the relief vent from any blockages caused by inclement weather. Loss of gas pressure or a possibly dangerous overpressure are examples of the affects caused by an ice-blocked relief vent.

Write 2322 on **GASEFAX** card

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February 2000*

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Back

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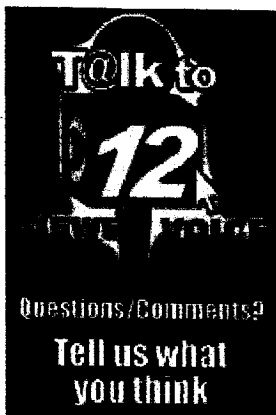
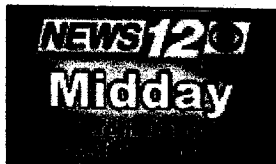
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## Gas Meter Safety

June 16, 2005

Reported by: Laurie Ott

It's so hot outside right now, the last thing you're probably worrying about is freezing temperatures. But one local woman found out her gas meter could have killed her during last January's freeze and she's been fighting ever since to keep it from happening to you.

This past January 24, right in the middle of an ice storm in North Augusta, little Frasier became a hero. His owner, Jan Ayer, was asleep but her little dog was barking up a storm.

When Jan got up to see what Frasier was barking about, she was immediately hit in the face with gas. When she closed the back door, the back of her house blew up.

With her house in flames, Jan escaped with her life and her dog. When the gas company, SCE&G, came to investigate, they found the regulator vent had iced over on her gas meter.

"What you had was a freak occurrence, if you will," said Eric Boomhower, SCE&G spokesperson. "What we found was a roof came together to create a valley and that channeled the water down and created a waterfall effect."

The water splashed up into the meter's regulator vent and froze. After doing some digging on her own, Jan found out that a \$5 splashguard would have saved her home. She'd asked this state agency, the Office of Regulatory Staff, to look into whether installing the splashguards should be a state requirement.

"Right now there are no requirements for splashguards, we know they're there," said Dukes Scott, O.R.S. Executive Director.

Now, nearly five months after her home exploded, someone's finally listening. Dukes Scott told News 12 his office met Monday to talk about the January explosion.

"We've been meeting as a staff how to handle this, and a decision's been made to pursue this to see what other incidents are out there and what other meters are in a valley," Scott said.

And his office could recommend splashguards be placed on at-risk meters in the state.

Meantime, SCE&G says they've had some splashguards on their service trucks for about a month now.

"I don't know the exact number, but we probably purchased 500-1,000 initially," Boomhower said.

But keep in mind, SCE&G has 285,000 customers.

"If we feel it was necessary for safety to install these on every unit we would do that but honestly there's really no benefit," Boomhower said.

Something that Fraiser and his owner Jan would dispute.

News 12 checked and Atlanta Gas Light, with a 1.8 million customers, has the splashguards on a little more than half their meters. Their spokesman says they installed them five years ago for safety reasons, north of line from Macon to Augusta.

If you're concerned about your gas meter and you live in South Carolina, SCE&G says you can call then at 800-251-7234 or locally in Aiken at 642-6270.

provided, where practical, designed to discourage or reveal tampering or theft of gas.

103-425

LOCATION OF METER

A.

No customer's meter shall be installed in any location where it may reasonably be expected to be exposed to damage or in any unduly dirty or inaccessible location.

B.

Outdoor meters shall be used where practicable.

103-426

CHANGE IN CHARACTER OF SERVICE

A.

In order that the gas utility may provide a proper service facility and metering installation, the customer shall advise the gas utility of the expected service requirements and shall also advise the gas utility of any increase or decrease in the load to be provided by the gas utility in sufficient time to change service characteristics.

B.

In case any substantial change is made by the gas utility in the service conditions which would affect the operation or adjustment of appliances of customers, the affected appliances shall be readjusted by the gas utility for the conditions without charge.

C. DUKES SCOTT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 11233  
Columbia, S.C. 29211



Phone: (803) 737-0934  
Fax: (803) 737-0101

DAN E. ARNETT  
CHIEF OF STAFF

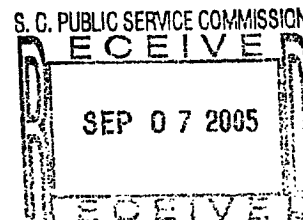
1756625A.4

September 1, 2005

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

Charles L. A. Terreni, Esquire  
Chief Clerk/Administrator  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RECEIVED  
9/13/05  
too



RECEIVED

SEP 12 2005

Dear Mr. Terreni:

PSC SC  
DOCKETING DEPT.

On February 28, 2005, the Pipeline Safety Department of the Office of Regulatory Staff became aware of a non-reportable incident that had occurred on January 29, 2005, at a residence located at 1140 Ridgcrest Avenue, North Augusta, S.C. After an extensive investigation among all parties involved of the facts surrounding the incident, we determined that there may be a potential hazard arising from the use of certain meter set configurations, such as the one used at this residence.

Specifically, our investigation suggests that the service regulator vent iced over at the time the residence's appliances were calling for gas. When the appliances no longer called for gas and the demand decreased, the regulator was unable to vent and, therefore, placed undue pressure on the piping system of the home. Consequently, a fire occurred which caused approximately \$3,000 in damage to the home.

On June 21, 2005, we sent a letter to all operators in the state to survey 1) how many of these meter sets are in service, 2) how many are affected by water spillage or rainwater runoff onto the meter set, and 3) how many over-pressure problems related to freezing temperatures have occurred on this type of meter set. We learned that approximately 108,000 of these meter sets are in service, with approximately 23,700 being affected by water spillage or rainwater runoff. Other than the aforementioned incident, the survey indicates no other reports of over-pressure problems occurring downstream of these meter sets due to freezing temperatures. These meter sets have been in use in South Carolina approximately 40 years. We are aware that South Carolina Electric and Gas is voluntarily installing, at least in some of these meter sets, a device known as a splash guard which is inserted in the vents of service regulators located directly above the meters. This device is designed to help prevent freeze-up of the vent when moisture is

present and temperatures fall below freezing. Also, we are informed that Atlanta Gas Light, as a company policy, is installing splash guards on this type of meter set.

On August 23, 2005, we requested information from each of the eleven pipeline safety programs in the southern region operating under jurisdiction of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. No state in the southern region has introduced state regulations relating to or as a result of over-pressure problems with this particular meter set configuration and freezing temperatures.

We have prepared an official advisory for all gas system operators explaining the potential hazard related to the meter set configuration that was the subject of our investigation. We further advise that where these meter sets are in service and affected by water spillage or rainwater runoff, there could be a possibility of over-pressure downstream of the meter if the regulator vent iced over during sub-freezing temperatures. We are recommending that operators identify any of these herein described meter sets in service on their systems and be prepared to take appropriate action where deemed necessary. Actions may include, but are not limited to, reconfiguring these sets, relocating these meters and service regulators, and/or installing splash guards in the vents of certain service regulators.

Because the Public Service Commission is the rulemaking state agency for pipeline safety, we are furnishing this information so the Commission can determine whether a regulation should be promulgated requiring relocation of certain meter sets or installation of splash guards on these meter sets.

 Please see the attached information supporting the findings of our investigation and the advisory notice.

Sincerely,



Shannon Bowyer Hudson

Enclosures

duration and cause of such interruption. The ORS is to be notified by telephone of any such interruption as soon as practicable after it comes to the attention of the gas utility and a complete written report made to the ORS after restoration of service, if such interruption is more than 6 hours in duration. <sup>11</sup>

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#### 103-415. Accidents.

A. Each gas system shall, as soon as possible, report by telephone to the ORS each accident happening in connection with the operation of its property, facilities, or service, wherein any person shall have been killed or hospitalized with injuries or whereby such reporting is required by Subarticle 8. Such telephonic report shall later be supplemented by written reports if required by Subarticle 8. Each gas system shall, as soon as possible, report by telephone to the ORS all gas leaks not reportable under the above criteria, but resulting in property damage in excess of \$5,000. Such telephonic report shall later be supplemented by written report giving the cause and other details of the incident. <sup>12</sup>

Deleted: Commission

Deleted: Commission

B. Each gas system shall establish procedures for analyzing accidents for the purpose of determining the causes and minimizing the possibilities of recurrences.

#### 103-416. Complaints.

Complaints concerning the charges, practices, facilities, or services of the utility shall be investigated promptly and thoroughly. Each gas utility shall keep a record of all such complaints received, which record shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and character of the complaint, and the adjustment or disposal made thereof.

#### 103-417. Meter History.

Each gas utility shall maintain records of the following data, where applicable, for each billing meter for so long as such meter is in possession of the gas utility and for twelve months thereafter.

- a. Date of purchase.
- b. The complete identification--manufacturer, number, type, size, capacity, multiplier, and constants.
- c. The current and last previous locations, and the dates of installation at and removal from service at such locations.
- d. Repairs.

#### 103-418. Meter Test Records and Reports.

# State Farm Insurance Companies



February 1, 2005

State Farm Fire and Casualty Com  
2743 Perimeter Parkway  
Bld 200, Suite 210  
Augusta, Ga 30909  
706-868-4300

Janice Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Ave  
North Augusta, SC 29841-3056

RE: Claim Number: 40-D130-828  
Date of Loss: January 29, 2005

Dear Ms. Ayer:

Enclosed is a draft in the amount of \$5981.44 in settlement of your claim. This settlement is based on State Farm Estimate which outlines the basis for payment.

Thank you for this opportunity to assist you with your claim. Please call me if you have any additional questions, or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Will Wren  
Claim Representative  
(706) 868-4360

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company

State Farm Insurance Companies  
650 Ronald Reagan Drive  
Evans, GA. 30809  
(706) 868-4300  
02/01/2005

Estimate: 40-D130-828  
Insured: AYER, JANICE  
Property: 1140 Ridgecrest Ave  
North Augusta, SC 29841-3056  
Home: (803) 827-3288

Claim Number: 40-D130-828  
Policy Number: XXXXXXXXXX  
Type of Loss: Fire  
Deductible: \$ 1,000.00  
Price List: SCAI5F5A1  
Restoration/Service/Remodel  
with Service Charges Broken  
Out  
Date of Loss: 1/29/2005  
Date Inspected: 1/31/2005

Summary for Fire

Line Item Total				5,675.31
Material sales tax	@	6.000% x	SC	2,375.90
				142.55
Replacement Cost Value				5,817.86
Less Depreciation				(0.00)
Actual Cash Value (ACV)				5,817.86
Overhead	@	10.0% x		5,817.86
Profit	@	10.0% x		5,817.86
				581.79
				581.79
Actual Cash Value (Including Overhead and Profit)				6,981.44
Less Deductible				(1,000.00)
Net Actual Cash Value Payment				\$5,981.44

Will D. Wren  
(706) 868-4360

ALL AMOUNTS PAYABLE ARE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS, CONDITIONS AND  
LIMITS OF YOUR POLICY.

# STATEMENT

541318

DATE 2-14-05

TO

San Ayer

for 1140 Ridgecrest Dr.

TERMS

Inspection

IN ACCOUNT WITH

C. Coleman Bates, S.C. Master Electrician

120 Sanders Dr. 00312 0993

Belvedere, S.C.

1 home inspection for gas explosion - due to faulty regulator - on gas meter

no electrical damage found, existing wires still intact and in usable condition

Richmond

Total Price 15000

#1728 \$150.00

Partial full 13000

adams 25812

CLAIM NO 40-D130-828

LOSS DATE 1/29/2005

PAYMENT NO 1 27 598202 J

DATE 2/21/2005

AMOUNT \$1,300.00

TIN

Coverage Description	Amount	COL/Line	Pay Cd
Fire/Lightning - Building	\$150.00	33/001	3
Additional Living Expense	\$1,150.00	69/001	1

Dep. 3/4/05

RETAIN STUB FOR RECORDS

AUTHORIZED BY WESSINGER, JASON  
PHONE (803) 935-3672

MARKS \$150 for electrical/\$1150 46 days ALE, DOL through 03-15-05

CLAIM NO 40-D130-828

LOSS DATE 1/29/2005

PAYMENT NO 1 27 065889 J

DATE 3/24/2005

AMOUNT \$1,755.21

TIN

Coverage Description	Amount	COL/Line	Pay Cd
Fire/Lightning - Personal Property	\$1,755.21	34/001	3

Dep 3/30/05

RETAIN STUB FOR RECORDS

AUTHORIZED BY KNOTTS, CINDY  
PHONE (800) 298-9519

EMARKS actual cash value

**Duraclean Systems, Inc.**  
424 Edgefield Road  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
05/10/2005

Estimate: 40-D130-828  
Insured: Ayer, Janice  
Property: 1140 Ridgecrest Avenue  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
Home: (803) 279-7315  
Cellular: (803) 645-8808

Claim Number: 40-D130-828  
Policy Number: [REDACTED]  
Type of Loss: Fire  
Deductible: \$ 0.00  
Price List: SCAIIC2C  
Restoration/Service/Remodel  
with Service Charges Broken  
Out  
Date of Loss: 1/29/2005  
Date Inspected: 1/31/2005

**Summary for Fire**

Line Item Total			813.28
Material Sales Tax	@	6.000% x	52.65
			3.16
Replacement Cost Value			816.44
Less Deductible			(0.00)
Net Payment			\$816.44

Newton, Chris  
(803) 279-8842

**ALL AMOUNTS PAYABLE ARE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS, CONDITIONS AND  
LIMITS OF YOUR POLICY.**

**Duraclean Systems, Inc.**  
424 Edgefield Road  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
05/10/2005

Estimate: 020305-00001  
Insured: AYER, JANICE  
Home: 1140 RIDGECREST AVE  
NORTH AUGUSTA, SC 29841-3056  
Property: 1140 RIDGECREST AVE  
NORTH AUGUSTA, SC 29841-3056

Home: (803) 827-3288

Claim Number: 40-D130-828

Policy Number: [REDACTED]

Type of Loss: Smoke

Deductible: \$ 0.00

Price List: SCAI5F5A1

Restoration/Service/Remodel  
with Service Charges Broken  
Out

Date of Loss: 1/29/2005

Date Inspected: 1/31/2005

**Summary for Smoke**

Line Item Total				1,915.15
Material sales tax	@	6.000% x	40.39	2.42
Replacement Cost Value				1,917.57
Less Deductible				(0.00)
Net Payment				<u>\$1,917.57</u>

Newton, Chris  
(803) 279-8842

**ALL AMOUNTS PAYABLE ARE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS, CONDITIONS AND  
LIMITS OF YOUR POLICY.**

**Robinson Restoration Cleaners, LLC**

P.O. 4344

Columbia, SC 29240

Phone: 803-251-3500 Fax: 803-254-2374

Attn: Peter Gainey

Federal Tax ID: 14-1888005

**INVOICE**  
**RECEIVED**

2/15/05 - compressed

CRDN Job# 10198

FEB 15 2005

**STATE FARM**  
**FIRE CLAIMS****BILL TO**

State Farm

Attn: ~~Will Wrenn~~ *Jason Wessinger*

7 Technology Circle

Suite 300

Columbia, SC 29203

**LOSS SITE INFORMATION**

Jan Ayer

1140 Ridgecrest Avenue

North Augusta, SC 29841

Phone: 803-645-8808

Loss Date: 2/7/05

Claim #: 40D130-828

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2/14/05	Garment & Textile Restoration Services (See attached line item detail)	\$2,044.27
<b>ESTIMATE</b>		
SUBTOTAL		\$2,044.27
SALES SC Tax-6%		\$122.66
TAX Envir-Levy		\$20.44
BILLED AMOUNT		\$2,187.37
TOTAL DUE		\$2,187.37

**Insurance Information**

State Farm

Attn: Will Wrenn

7 Technology Circle

Suite 300

Columbia, SC 29203

Phone: 706-868-4360 Augusta  
Office

Fax: 803-935-3590

**Contractor Information**

Duraclean

Attn: Ned Maner

424 Edgefield Road

North Augusta, SC 29841

Phone: 803-279-8842

Fax: 803-279-1195

Email: duraned3@comcast.net

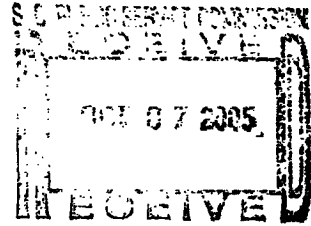


176206



October 5, 2005

Charles L. A. Terreni, Esquire  
Chief Clerk & Administrator  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210



Re: Certain Meter Sets  
Docket No. 2005-270-G

Dear Mr. Terreni:

This letter is purely advisory in nature. Since our last letter to the Commission regarding this docket, we have received updated numbers in response to our survey completed by South Carolina Operators. We understand estimates were originally provided by some operators. The enclosed Operator Survey Concerning Type 12 Meter Sets shows updated counts recently provided by Operators. You will notice the number of Type 12 Meter Sets in operation is now reported at 70,858 instead of the originally reported 108,032.

In addition, our September 1, 2005 correspondence to the Commission noted a fire occurred on January 29, 2005 at a residence located on 1140 Ridgecrest Avenue, North Augusta resulting in estimated property damages of \$3000. We would like the Commission to be advised that this estimate was provided by SCE&G. On September 26, 2005, the homeowner reported to ORS that property damages were approximately \$15,000.

This concludes the update for this docket. ORS will provide appropriate updates in this matter as necessary. If additional information is needed concerning this matter, please advise.

Sincerely,

*Shannon Bowyer Hudson*

Shannon Bowyer Hudson

Enclosure

Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Janice Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Ave.  
North Augusta, SC 29841

**State Farm Fire and Casualty**  
7 Technology Circle Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29203  
803 935 3600 Fax 803 935 3590

RE: Claim Number: 40-D130-828  
Date of Loss: 01-29-05

This letter is a follow-up to your request for information as to why State Farm Insurance did not pursue subrogation for damages as a result of your loss.

Claim Representative Wrenn then followed-up with Henry Walker, in the State Farm Fire Subrogation Unit as to possibility of subrogation recovery. Once all the facts of the loss were explained it was determined that subrogation would not be pursued in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Wessinger

Jason Wessinger  
Claim Representative  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
803-935-3672

# State Farm Fire and Casualty Company



October 25, 2005

7 Technology Circle  
Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29203

803-935-3673 (Office)  
803-935-3590 (Fax)

Janice Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Ave.  
North Augusta SC 29841

RE: Claim Number: 40-D130-828  
Date of Loss: 01-29-05

Dear Mrs. Ayer,

This letter is to advise you that we will not pursue subrogation against an adverse party for the Fire damage to your home. Our action does not in anyway prevent you from pursuing a claim directly against the adverse party to recoup your deductible or any other damage not covered by your insurance policy.

Our decision not to pursue subrogation at this time is two part. First of all, the age of the gas meter itself. State Farm Insurance feels that the age of the meter itself is too old to be considered as a reason for subrogation, Secondly, SCE&G was not required by law or code to replace the gas meters prior to loss.

Thank you for allowing us to assist you in this matter and for choosing State Farm and State Farm Agent Joan Kight for your insurance. Please call me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Jason Wessinger  
Claim Representative  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
(803) 935-3672

# OPERATOR SURVEY CONCERNING TYPE 12 METER SETS

NAME OF OPERATOR	TOTAL # OF METERS	LETTER SENT	REPLY RECEIVED	NUMBER OF TYPE 12 SETS	# AFFECTED BY WATER	# OF OVER PRESSURE EVENTS
Aiken HA	118	6/21/2005	8/17/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Ameresco, Inc.	none	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
BASF Corp.	none	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Blue Flame Gas Co.	48	6/21/2005	7/21/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Charleston HA	28	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Cherokee Co. Co-Gen	none	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
<del>Cherokee Co. NGA</del>	9,635	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	6000	none	none
City of Bamberg	1,610	6/21/2005	8/17/2005	none	n/a	n/a
City of Bennettsville	3,306	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	none	n/a	n/a
City of Blacksburg	737	6/21/2005	8/12/2005	none	n/a	none
City of Fountain Inn	9,635	6/21/2005	8/8/2005	3677	10	none
City of Laurens	7,344	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
City of Orangeburg	10,548	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	291	none	none
City of Union	7,141	6/21/2005	8/11/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Elkhart Newberry NGA	15,323	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	13,430	none	none
Columbia HA	727	6/21/2005	7/20/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Dept. of Defense	none	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Easley HA	none	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Ferrell Gas Co.	none	6/21/2005	8/22/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Fort Hill NGA	43,847	6/21/2005	7/19/2005	50	n/a	n/a
Greenwood CPW	21,687	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	2	none	none
Greer CPW	17,284	6/21/2005	8/24/2005	7	none	none
Kimberly Clark Corp.	none	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
<del>Laurens Co. NGA</del>	17,246	6/21/2005	8/23/2005	16,380	7,568	none
Laurens HA	122	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Piedmont NG Co.	138,341	6/21/2005	8/15/2005	54000	13,500	none
Santee Cooper	none	6/21/2005	7/12/2005	none	n/a	n/a
<del>SCRG</del>	none	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	12,500	none requested	1
SCPC	none	6/21/2005	7/12/2005	none	n/a	n/a
SCRHA #1	1,342	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	none	n/a	n/a
SONAT	none	6/21/2005	7/12/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Town of Wainsboro	2,846	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	1,400	50	none
York Co. NGA	45,866	6/21/2005	8/24/2005	none	n/a	n/a
TOTALS	666,560	—	—	none	10,000	1

# **OPERATOR SURVEY CONCERNING TYPE 12 METER SETS**

NAME OF OPERATOR	TOTAL # OF METERS	LETTER SENT	REPLY RECEIVED	NUMBER OF TYPE 12 SETS	# AFFECTED BY WATER	# OF OVER PRESSURE EVENTS
Aiken HA	118	6/21/2005	8/17/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Ameresco, Inc.	none	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
BASF Corp.	none	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Blue Flame Gas Co.	48	6/21/2005	7/21/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Charleston HA	28	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Cherokee Co. Co-Gen	none	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Chester Co. NGA	9,635	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	5,000	300	none
City of Bamberg	1,610	6/21/2005	8/17/2005	none	n/a	n/a
City of Bennettsville	3,306	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	none	n/a	n/a
City of Blacksburg	737	6/21/2005	8/12/2005	none	n/a	n/a
City of Fountain Inn	9,635	6/21/2005	8/8/2005	3677	10	none
City of Laurens	7,344	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
City of Orangeburg	10,548	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	291	113	none
City of Union	7,141	6/21/2005	8/11/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Clinton Newberry NGA	15,323	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	13,430	2,094	none
Columbia HA	727	6/21/2005	7/20/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Dept. of Defense	none	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Easley HA	none	6/21/2005	8/19/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Ferrell Gas Co.	none	6/21/2005	8/22/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Fort Hill NGA	43,847	6/21/2005	7/19/2005	30	none	none
Greenwood CPW	21,687	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	2	none	none
Greer CPW	17,284	6/21/2005	8/24/2005	2	none	none
Kimberly Clark Corp.	none	6/21/2005	8/18/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Lancaster Co. NGA	17,246	6/21/2005	8/23/2005	16,380	7,588	none
Laurens HA	122	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Piedmont NG Co.	138,341	6/21/2005	8/15/2005	18,120	7,939	none
Santee Cooper	none	6/21/2005	7/12/2005	none	n/a	n/a
SCE&G	311,779	6/21/2005	8/16/2005	12,800	3,072	1
SCPC	none	6/21/2005	7/12/2005	none	n/a	n/a
SCRHA #1	1,342	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	none	n/a	n/a
SONAT	none	6/21/2005	7/12/2005	none	n/a	n/a
Town of Winnsboro	2,846	6/21/2005	8/25/2005	1,126	50	none
York Co. NGA	45,866	6/21/2005	8/24/2005	none	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>666,560</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>70,858</b>	<b>21,166</b>	<b>1</b>

INSPECTION NO. 022

OPERATOR'S COPY \_\_\_\_\_

FILE COPY \_\_\_\_\_



COMMISSIONERS:

ROBERT C. (BOBBY) PAFFORD, CHAIRMAN  
GARY B. ANDREWS, VICE CHAIRMAN  
JIM HAMMOCK  
BILLY LOVETT  
FORD B. SPINKS

HORACE F. HARTLEY, SECRETARY

## Georgia Public Service Commission

244 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

### REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY INSPECTION

OPERATOR Atlanta Gas Light Company - Cedartown  
PERSON(S) CONTACTED Glen Welch - Manager; David Page - Public Liaison Eng.  
GPSC INSPECTOR Danny McGriff ENGINEER RESPONSIBLE BLANTON  
INSPECTION DATE 1/23/87 & 2/3&5/87 REPORT MAILED 5/4/87

Any questions concerning this report may be directed to the above address or by telephoning (404) 656-4518. (Call toll-free within Georgia - 1-800-282-5813, extension (4518). (Call toll-free within Georgia - 1-800-282-5813, extension (4518).

1. PURPOSE OF INSPECTION

To investigate incident at 107 North Estes St., in Cedartown, Georgia.

2. VIOLATIONS OF THE MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS

None at this time.

3. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

See attached.

4. ACTION REQUIRED BY OPERATOR

See attached.

\*Minimum Federal Safety Standards



US Department of Transportation  
Research and Special Programs  
Administration

## INCIDENT REPORT - GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Report Date \_\_\_\_\_  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(RSPA)

### PART 1 - GENERAL REPORT INFORMATION

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS\*

870036

1. a. Operator's 5 digit Identification No.

00792

4. Reason for Reporting

☐ Fatality Number     persons

☐ Injury requiring inpatient hospitalization Number     persons

☒ Property damage/loss Estimate \$ 10,000.00

☐ Operator Judgment/Emergency Action

☐ Supplemental Report

5. Elapsed time until area was made safe Turned off by Fire     hr     mn  
Department prior to our arrival on site.

6. Telephonic Report:

0/1 mo 2/3 day 8/7 yr Made to State

7. a. Estimated pressure at point and time of incident (PSIG) \_\_\_\_\_

b. Maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) (PSIG) \_\_\_\_\_

c. MAOP established by:

(1) Test pressure \_\_\_\_\_ (PSIG)

(2) 49 CFR §192.619(a)(3) ☐

2. Location of Incident

a. 107 North Estes Street  
Number and Street

b. Cedartown Polk County  
City and County

c. Georgia 30125  
State and Zip Code

d. Class Location ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☒ 4

e. Incident on Federal Land ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Time and Date of Incident

0/2/5/7 hour 0/1 mo 2/3 day 8/7 yr

### PART 2 - APPARENT CAUSE

☐ Corrosion  
(Continue in Part A)

☒ Damage by Outside Forces  
(Continue in Part B)

☐ Construction/Operating Error  
(Continue in Part C)

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Accidentally caused by operator  
(Continue in Parts B and/or C)

### PART 3 - NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE INCIDENT

(Attach additional sheet(s) as necessary)

See Part B section three

### PART 4 - ORIGIN OF THE INCIDENT

1. Part of System Where Incident Occurred

☐ Main ☒ Meter Set Assembly  
☐ Service Line ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Material Involved:

☐ Steel ☐ Cast iron  
☐ Polyethylene plastic ☐ Other plastic: \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ Other Cast Aluminum

NPS (Nominal Pipe Size)     in. Wall Thickness     in.

4. Specification 1213B Manufacturer Reliance Year Manufactured 1/9/72 Year installed 1/9/73

2. Component Which Failed

a. Part

☐ Body of Pipe ☐ Valve  
☐ Joint, type \_\_\_\_\_ ☒ Regulator/meter  
☐ Fitting ☐ Weld, specify \_\_\_\_\_  
girth, longitudinal, fillet  
☐ Drip/Riser ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### PART 5 - ENVIRONMENT

Area of Incident

☐ Within/Under Building ☐ Under Pavement ☒ Above Ground ☐ Under Ground or Under Water ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### PART 6 - PREPARER AND AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Glenn C. Welch, Manager

(type or print) Preparer's Name and Title

404/748-2520

Telephone Number

Thomas P. Benson

Authorized Signature and Date

404/572-0808

Telephone Number

## EXHIBIT B

## TELEPHONIC INCIDENT REPORT

DATE OF CALL: January 23, 1987 TIME OF CALL: 8:15 A.M.  
P.M.REPORTING OFFICIAL: Glenn Welch TITLE: ManagerREPORTED TO O.P.S.O.: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: XLOCATION: DIVISION: Atlanta Gas Light  
North West Georgia CITY: CedartownADDRESS/SITE: 107 N. Estes St.DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT: Jan. 23, 1987 3:15 AMFACILITIES: SIZE OF PIPELINE: 3/4 steelTYPE: XMSN: \_\_\_\_\_ MAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ SERVICE: ✓OTHER COMPONENT(S) INVOLVED: 1313 Singer RegulatorOPERATING PRESSURE: 30 PSIGAMOUNT OF DAMAGE: \$ 15.000DESCRIPTION: PROBABLE CAUSE(S): UnknownIGNITION: YES: ✓  
NO: \_\_\_\_\_EXPLOSION: YES: ✓  
NO: \_\_\_\_\_INJURIES: noneFATALITIES: none

OTHER PROPERTY DAMAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PERSON  
RECEIVING CALL: Danny L Mc Huff

On Friday, January 23, 1987, at approximately 3:15 a.m. EST an explosion and fire occurred at the residence of Mrs. Dave Roberson Sr., 107 North Estes Street, Cedartown, Georgia. (See Exhibit A) Approximately \$15,000 damage occurred to the residence with no personal injuries. On the same day, at 8:15 a.m. EST, the manager of the Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) Cedartown office notified the Georgia Public Service Commission's Gas Safety office of the incident. (See Exhibit B) Personnel from the Gas Safety office arrived at the accident site at 10:38 a.m. and began their investigation. See photograph Exhibit C & D.

AGL distribution personnel were observed testing the customer's service line, regulator, meter and fuel line with gas pressure for leakage. The results of the test found a small leak on the customer's fuel line. Also, the test showed that the house regulator was delivering 6.5 inches of water column pressure to the customer's meter and fuel line, with a lock up pressure on the regulator at 7 inches water column pressure. Furthermore, a small leak was detected coming from the vent side of the house regulator.

Interviews with AGL Cedartown manager and service foreman, Mr. Glenn Welch and Mr. John Green, determined upon their arrival at the site they observed the house meter and regulator completely covered with ice. It appeared that snow had accumulated on top of the roof, began to melt and drip water onto the gas meter and regulator. Due to a drop in temperature, the dripping water turned into ice and froze shut the house regulator vent port. Since the regulator vent was closed, the venting gas could not escape and the regulator was unable to perform as designed. Therefore, an increase in gas pressure to the customer's fuel line occurred causing an explosion and fire.

On Febraury 3, 1987, at approximately 2:30 p.m., a pressure and flow test was performed on the 1313 Singer service regulator removed from the residence of Mrs. Dave Roberson. Sr.. The service regulator was tested with 25 PSIG inlet pressure and a flow rate of 26 cubic feet per hour. At this rate the regulator showed a feed of 6.3 inches water column with shut off at 6.5 inches water column. The regulator appeared to be working properly at full flow. However, when the regulator vent was blocked to simulate the icing condition, the regulator malfunctioned allowing the down stream fuel line to overpressurize. The regulator was disassembled to determine what caused the malfunction. An

examination of the internal parts of the regulator revealed the diaphragm had become separated from the diaphragm plate which allowed gas to leak into the spring housing and not allow the regulator to operate correctly. See Exhibit E & F.

EXHIBIT C

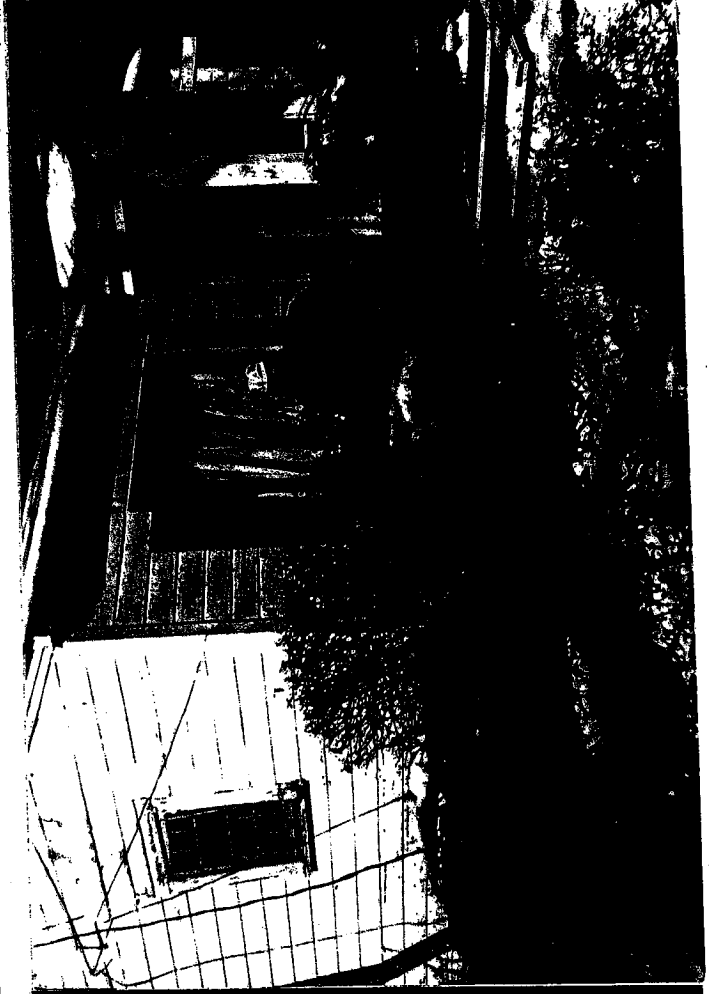
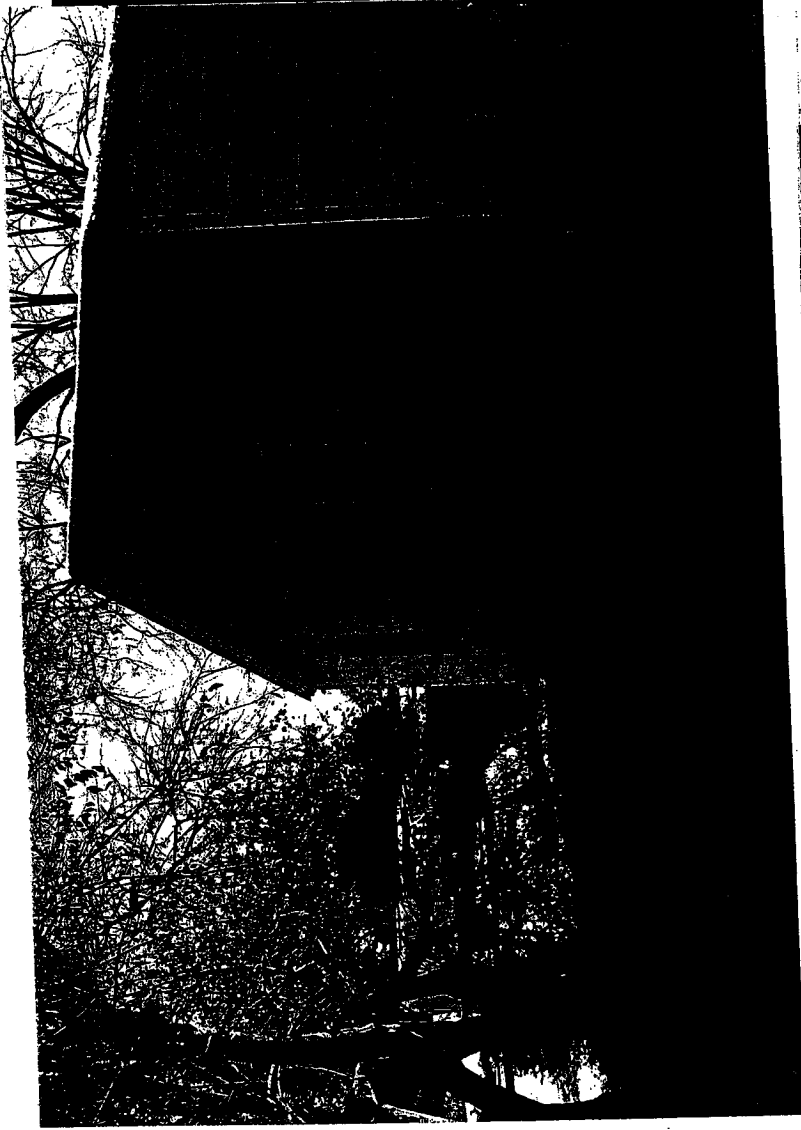


EXHIBIT D



BATHROOM



KITCHEN

COMMISSIONERS:

DAVID N. (DAVE) BAKER, CHAIRMAN  
ROBERT B. (BOBBY) BAKER  
MAC BARBER  
BOB DURDEN  
STAN WISE



WILLIAM J. DOVER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TERRI M. LYNDALL  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

## Georgia Public Service Commission

244 WASHINGTON STREET, SW  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5701

(404)656-4501 OR 1(800)282-5813

### REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO. JM96.013

OPERATOR

PERSON(S) CONTACTED

GPSC INSPECTOR

INSPECTION DATES

Atlanta Gas Light Company—NORTH FULTON

Dennis McCreary—Service Supervisor

Donaldson

02/05/96

ENGINEER RESPONSIBLE

REPORT MAILED

HOLD

Any questions concerning this report may be directed to the above address or by telephoning (404) 656-4518. (Call toll-free within Georgia: 1-800-282-5813, extension 4518).

1. PURPOSE OF INSPECTION:

To perform a investigation of a reportable incident that occurred January 4, 1996, at 1607 Homestead Trail, Alpharetta (Fulton County) Georgia, and to assure operators compliance with Part 192 of the Minimum Federal Safety Standards.

2. VIOLATIONS OF THE MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS:

None

3. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:

INCIDENT AT 1606 HOMESTEAD TRAIL  
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA  
February 4, 1996

On February 2, 1996, at approximately 1130 hours, fire department personnel and equipment responded to fire at 1606 Homestead Trail, Alpharetta (Fulton) Georgia. Upon arrival fire personnel found a two story structure on fire. Fire department personnel were able to contain the fire to one condominium, with only water

and smoke damage to the adjoining unit at 1606 Homestead Trail. Operator's supervisor arrived on site at approximately 1200 hours, and shortly after, at approximately 1230 hours operator's chief investigator arrived. Georgia Public Service Commission, Office of Pipeline Safety was notified at 1500 hours on February 4, 1996.

#### **INVESTIGATION**

A investigation of the incident at 1606 Homestead Trail was performed. Inspectors of the Georgia Public Service Commission, Office of Pipeline Safety arrived at the incident site February 5, 1996. The operator had removed the gas meter along with the regulator. After disassembling the unit operator discovered a presence of dirt and water in the regulator. The area was experiencing extreme cold, and on February 5, 1996, when inspectors were at the site of the incident a collection of ice on gas meters and regulators on adjoining equipment was observed. This was believed to come from water cascading from the roofs of residences onto meters.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The probable cause of this incident was the accumulation in the regulator of dirt and water, combined with the extreme cold caused the water collected in the regulator to freeze. Thus causing the equipment to fail and allowed inlet side pressure to be delivered to the customers equipment.

Reference: NRC #323-986.

**HOLD—DO NOT MAIL—FILE ONLY.**



# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** each year more than 100,000 Americans, including almost two thousand from South Carolina, die from preventable causes and another 27 million suffer injuries serious enough to warrant treatment in an emergency room; and

**WHEREAS,** estimates for lost wages, medical obligations, property damage, employer costs, and other expenses related to fatal and non-fatal injuries exceed \$100 billion annually; and

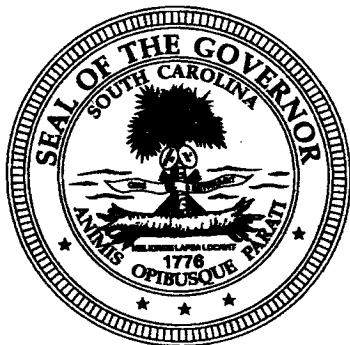
**WHEREAS,** the leading causes of injury and death, including car crashes, falls, poisoning, choking, drowning, fire, and suffocation, are especially tragic because they are preventable; and

**WHEREAS,** traditionally, unintentional injuries and fatalities increase during the summer season making it an appropriate time to focus attention on reducing the risk of serious injury and death.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2005 as**

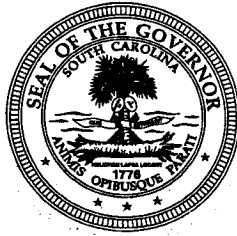
### **SAFETY MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about health and safety for home, work and play and to take the necessary steps to reduce the risk of serious injury and death.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267  
COLUMBIA 29211

July 5, 2005

Ms. Jan Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Avenue  
North Augusta, South Carolina 29841

Dear Jan,

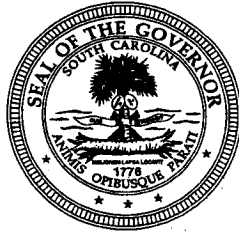
Thank you for your correspondence. I am contacting the Office of Regulatory Staff for you and will be back in touch. In the meantime, please call Emily Jackson in my office at (803)734-0681 if you would like to further discuss this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MS", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford

MS/emj



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267  
COLUMBIA 29211

August 2, 2005

Ms. Jan Ayer  
1140 Ridgecrest Avenue  
North Augusta, South Carolina 29841

Dear Jan,

To ensure receipt, enclosed is the response received from C. Dukes Scott with the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) regarding your concerns. As you may know, the ORS is conducting a survey of all gas system operators in the state to help determine the extent of the problem and the results of this survey will be submitted to the Public Service Commission for their review. We were glad to make this contact for you and hope the information provided addresses some of your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

MS/emj

Enclosure

C. DUKES SCOTT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 11263  
Columbia, S.C. 29211



Phone: (803) 737-0800  
Fax: (803) 737-0801

DAN E. ARNETT  
CHIEF OF STAFF

July 28, 2005

The Honorable Mark Sanford  
Governor of South Carolina  
Post Office Box 12267  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Jan Ayer – SCE&G

Dear Governor Sanford:

I appreciate your forwarding a copy of Ms. Ayer's letter to your office. We are aware of Ms. Ayer's complaint, which was received by us in February, approximately one month after our agency became operational in January of 2005.

The rules and regulations governing incident reporting did not apply to this particular incident, and, therefore, the company was not required to file a report with our agency. It was only after Ms. Ayer contacted our office to file a complaint that we began our investigation.

We are surveying all gas system operators in the state and conducting other research to determine if other incidents have occurred. After reviewing the responses from the gas operators, we will be better informed as to the extent of the problem. Certainly, one incident is too many, but if there have been numerous incidents, this would be helpful to know. Since the Public Service Commission is the agency with rulemaking authority, we intend to submit the results of our investigation to it for review. The companies have until the end of August to respond to our request for information. It is understandable that Ms. Ayer is anxious, but we believe that our timeframe for conducting this survey is reasonable under the circumstances.

We are indeed concerned about the explosion in Ms. Ayers home and will take the appropriate action. We will keep you advised of the results of our survey.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

C. Dukes Scott